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## THE NATIONAL ERA.

WASHINGTON, APRIL 1, 1850.

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### THE MOTHER-IN-LAW.

A STORY OF THE ISLAND ESTATE.

BY MRS. EMMA D. SOUTHWORTH.

BOOK SECOND.

IV.—CONTINUED.

The next morning, as General Stuart-Gordon sat upon the piazza, enjoying his cigar, his paper, and the beautiful landscape stretched out before him, he saw a travelling carriage descend the road leading from a neighboring village, and taking the direction to the little bridge connecting the bank of the river with the Isle of Rays, pass over it, and entering upon the circular carriage road leading to the front entrance of the mansion, drive slowly up, and pause. The coachman jumped from the box, opened the door, let down the steps, and stood aside, to let a gentleman descend. The General arose, and advanced to receive his visitor. He was a neatly and elegantly dressed man, of about twenty-six years of age, tall, slender, handsome, dark complexioned, and of very graceful manners, and charming address.

"I have the honor of addressing General Stuart-Gordon?"

"That is my name, sir."

"I am James Froisher, of the British Embassy."

"I am happy to see you, sir. Walk in!" said the General, bowing, and leading the way to the oak parlor.

"I shall feel obliged if you will grant me a private interview, sir."

"Certainly, sir, with great pleasure. Will you accompany me to the library?"

The handsome visitor bowed gracefully, and followed his conductor to the library. As soon as they were seated, the General said:

"I presume, sir, that I am speaking to the guardian of Miss Britannia O'Reilly?"

"Sir—I am in some sort the guardian of that young lady."

"You know her intimately, then?"

"I do, sir."

"Where was she educated? What is she like?"

"At Hartford, Connecticut, sir; and she is like a beautiful, elegant, and accomplished woman."

"I am pleased to hear you say so, sir. Is she at your house at this time? If so, how soon can I be presented to her?"

"Sir, the young lady is at present on a visit of some weeks to a young friend, whose residence is two miles distant. If you wish it, I will send a messenger to announce your visit at any hour you may name."

"Thank you, sir. Will it be asking too much of your goodness, to request your company on this visit?"

"Oh! no, sir; I will attend you with pleasure, at any time."

"Then the sooner the better, my dear sir, as I am impatient to be presented to this young lady."

General Stuart-Gordon rung the bell, and said—

"I send a messenger immediately, to announce our visit, and we will set out in half an hour. Excuse me a moment, sir;—and, going to a writing-table, he wrote—

"My DEAREST BRITANNIA: Mr. Froisher is here, and we will both be with you in an hour."

"C. S. G."

and folded it, just as Apollo made his appearance at the door.

"Take this to Miss O'Reilly." The man bowed and withdrew.

"As you are the young lady's guardian, and as I have but a few days to remain, I will tell you, sir, the motive of my anxiety to be presented to her. In a word, it is this: The Castle of Clonmacnoise is a ruin; the estates are divided down to a few acres of marsh land, tenanted by a few wretched peasants, who are not able to pay for the mud huts in which they starve."

"This coincides with what I have heard from the young lady herself, sir."

"Nothing remains but the title?"

"That is understood, sir."

"Well, sir, I am a distant relative of the family of Clonmacnoise. I have an ample fortune, and am under no necessity to marry an heiress of property. I wish to get into the House of Peers, for the sake of serving the interests of Ireland. My father has interest at Court, and has obtained for me the promise of the reversion of the title of Earl of Clonmacnoise, in the event of my marrying the heiress of that house."

General Stuart-Gordon did not reply. He sat staring at the young and handsome speaker with the frank and graceful manners, as though he had been the Gorgon that had turned him into stone. Happily the General sat with his back to the window, so that the young man could not see the dismay blanching his countenance as he continued his discourse—

"Yes, that is the reason why I wish, without delay, to be presented to this young lady, to see whether she is by education and manners fitted to be introduced to London society."

"Sir," said the General, "I have never seen a more elegant or accomplished woman than Britannia O'Reilly. You will see her, however, this morning, to get into the middle of the island, and again ringing the bell, General Stuart-Gordon gave directions for two horses to be saddled. In a few minutes the two gentlemen were on horseback, and smiling towards the Crags, the younger traveller stopping frequently in the ascent, and turning to look back with a post's enthusiasm at the beauty, sublimity, and splendor of the landscape of mountains, rocks, falls, river, lake, and verdant banks, with all the glories of the earth and sky, doubled and reflected in the clear water."

"Why, this is a scene of divine beauty! There is nothing on the Rhine like this! Nothing in Switzerland, or Italy, like this! The foliage is gay! The scintillations and sparkles like a diamond! Emits lines of light like a cluster of sparkling sunbeams! I wish my friend Turner were here, to sketch this Eden!"

Moodily and silent, the General scarcely heard or replied to the enthusiastic admiration of his companion. They reached the Crags at last, rapped, were admitted, Britannia and Susan Somerville arose to receive their visitors. General Stuart-Gordon presented "Mr. Froisher."

Britannia received him with a courtesy, and placing her hand in that of the General, returned the pressure with which he greeted her. General Stuart-Gordon looked from Britannia to Froisher, to note their mutual effect upon each other. He saw in Froisher the surprise, the quick and ardent admiration he expected to find.

He saw in Britannia the impassable dignity, presenting the cold and brilliant surface that ever distinguished her manners to strange gentlemen. They were all seated. The presence of Susan Somerville restrained conversation upon the subject of the inheritance. They discussed general topics—the beauty of the spring—the splendor of the landscape stretching down before them, and visible at a great distance from this bleak height. Then they discussed Washington, Mr. Jefferson, Thomas Moore, who was then there, and, in short, everything, but the business nearest the hearts of all. General Stuart-Gordon perceived that Froisher's admiration of Britannia was not what it seemed. He was not a simpleton, and he fed on this as well as on an experimental visit.

"You have seen Miss O'Reilly, sir," said the General, as soon as they were on the road.

"Yes, sir."

"And you are pleased with her, no doubt?"

"Sir, I feel that any praise of mine of that young lady would be an impertinence. She is without a peer."

Both gentlemen now sunk into silence, each occupied with his own thoughts. They reached the Isle of Rays in time for dinner. Jealous as he was, General Stuart-Gordon, with Virginia Somerville, looked on with a jealous eye, to see that the planter had retained, in a great degree, the domestic manners and customs of their English fathers.

At dinner, the young stranger was presented to Mr. Stuart-Gordon, and, though he did not make his appearance, nor did the young man see her while he remained. It would have saved him from a serious mistake, and all parties from much future sorrow, if he had.

After dinner, the young man was absent and taciturn during the meal. When the wine was placed upon the table, the General arose, and bidding Louis entertain his guest, excused himself upon the plea of urgent business, and left the room. In the evening, the young man was absent and taciturn during the meal. When the wine was placed upon the table, the General arose, and bidding Louis entertain his guest, excused himself upon the plea of urgent business, and left the room.

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## THE NORTHERN TOURNAMENT.

BY GEORGE M. FITZPATRICK.

No. 1. For the Northern Tournament.

From every clan and party.

Come forth, ye chosen ones;

The world shall see the chosen

Of slavery's leading sin!

Up! ye freemen, to the field,

And battle for the right!

Come not for words of praise;

Woman's smile, or falling hair;

For beauty's lip and eye of light

The world shall see the chosen

Of slavery's leading sin!

And for your names no lofty shout

Shall lift its head on high;

But ye shall for the human race

Do deeds which cannot die!

Come from the cliffs where mighty fairs

Stand round the chosen bay,

From every lake and distant shore,

From where through mountain passes

The British gales;

Come from the distant Prairies

Where yet the red deer roam,

And where the shadowy fawns

In the last rays of the sun

C